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CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART NAMES EUGENE STEVENS TO BOARD

Former "Sailor" to Help Navigate Museum's Bright Future

CLEVELAND (July 12) — Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) Director Katharine Lee Reid today announced the appointment of Eugene Stevens, Esq. to the Museum's board of trustees.

Reid also announced the appointment of two additional trustees, Forest City Commercial Group President and CEO James Ratner and Cleveland Public Art Founding Trustee Nancy Keithley.

Stevens, a practicing attorney specializing in large stock exchange companies owning and servicing restaurants, hotels and stadiums, is well respected in international art circles.

According to Reid, "Eugene Stevens' appointment certainly broadens our Board's business and art perspective. His proven business savvy, coupled with his dedication as a collector of art, will undoubtedly add to our momentum in forging the future of this great institution. His presence complements the wealth of talent and expertise found among our current board members."

Stevens, who as a small child raced sailboats with his brother and neighborhood children in the Museum's lagoon, served as president of the CMA's Contemporary Art Society from 1994-1997. As a collector of contemporary art, the Cleveland native has made numerous loans to museums in the United States, Europe and Mexico. He and his collection have been featured in numerous publications, including *ArtNews* magazine. In addition to his long service at CMA, he has enjoyed membership at several museums, including: the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

"I am honored to join the board of this esteemed museum," Stevens said. "It is a rare jewel in both the national and international arts communities, and stands as a testament to careful stewardship and shrewd management over the years. I am confident," Stevens added, " that as we enter one of the most exciting phases in the Museum's history, these two values will continue to guide our thinking."

A double alumnus of Case Western Reserve University, Stevens is a member of the Union Club. A resident of Pepper Pike, Ohio, he and his wife, Paula, have five adult children.

Stevens joins the Board as the Museum enters the design phase of what will be the city's largest building project ever: the expansion and renovation of the entire facility.

"Unlike other museums," Reid noted, "we're not simply adding or renovating a wing. We are completely rethinking our institution as a place where people come to connect with art in very meaningful ways. Trustees of Eugene Stevens' caliber will ensure that we are successful in this endeavor."

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 5,000 years. The museum is a pivotal international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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